



Superintendent's Report June 11, 2026

We are in the home stretch of the school year, with only eight school days remaining! I want to take a moment to extend my sincere congratulations and gratitude to our Board of Education, teachers, administrators, support staff, and families for everything you have given this year. Day in and day out, our collective focus has remained where it belongs: on the academic, social, and emotional growth of every child in our care. It is a privilege for me to lead a community that cares so deeply, and I could not be prouder of the learning and growth (academically, socially and emotionally) our students and staff have accomplished together this year. At our June 25th meeting, I will be sharing a year-in-review report to highlight all of the accomplishments of the year.

Kudos to Ms. Menchise and Ms. Kang, our art teachers at Hillside and Tenakill respectively, on an amazing job with the recent art shows. The shows at both schools were truly incredible, showcasing the remarkable artistic talents of our students across all grade levels. What makes our art program so special is that students don't simply create art. They also explore art history, learning about the artists, movements, and techniques that have shaped the world of art. That foundation comes through in their work, as students take what they've studied and bring it to life in original pieces of their own. Thank you to Ms. Menchise and Ms. Kang for cultivating both an appreciation for art and the confidence to create it. Congratulations to our young artists on a job well done!

Congratulations to our eighth-grade students who received awards at the ceremony held on June 9, 2026. It was so impressive to see so many students receive recognition for their achievements in academics, the arts, sports, and community service. It was evident during the ceremony that our students have personified the characteristics in our Profile of a Closter Learner! I wish our eighth graders all the best as they take these qualities with them into high school and beyond. Continue to make Closter proud!

Our fourth-grade moving-on ceremony and eighth-grade graduation will be held at Memorial Field on Wednesday, June 17, 2026. The fourth-grade ceremony will begin at 5:00 p.m. and the eighth-grade ceremony will begin at 7:00 p.m. We are hoping for cooperative weather, but just in case: if it rains, the ceremonies will be held at the same date and times at Northern Valley Regional High School Demarest.

All students are encouraged to continue reading and practicing math during the summer. The recommendations for summer reading and math skills practice are posted on the [Hillside](#) and [Tenakill](#) webpages. While this work is optional, I strongly encourage parents to make a commitment to student learning over the summer. Research indicates that two months of reading skills and two-and-half months of math skills are lost over a single summer. A commitment at the start of summer to engage in reading and math practice, at least a few times a week, will prevent the loss of skills!

I'm pleased to share that instructional support will continue in our summer academic programs during the month of July. We have 113 students participating in a variety of programs:

- 4 students in the PreK Extended School Year program;
- 26 students in the Hillside School Academic Support Program;
- 34 students in Hillside School Summer Enrichment Programs;
- 32 students in the Tenakill Middle School Academic Support Program;
- 8 students in the Multisensory Reading Program;
- 6 students in Region III Summer Enrichment; and
- 13 students in Special Education Extended School Year Programs.



Closter will be celebrating the 250th Anniversary of America's Declaration of Independence on Saturday, June 13, 2026. The celebration will be a fun day for the whole family with a parade, rides, music, food trucks, and fire works! The event will start at 11:30 a.m. with a parade from the Ambulance Corps building to Memorial Park. Our students in grades three and four, and grades six through eight have participated in essay contests about the Declaration of Independence. The first, second, and third place winners from each grade will read their essays at the event, starting at 2:00 p.m. at the Anchor Pavillion by the flag pole. For a detailed event schedule, visit the Borough of Closter web page (<https://www.closterboro.com/page/rev-250-celebration>). I hope to see many of our students and families on Saturday, June 13th!

Schools will be closed on Friday, June 19, 2026, in observance of Juneteenth. The final day of school is Wednesday, June 24, 2026. Please note that the final four school days, June 18, 22, 23, and 24, will be single-session days! Enjoy the last days of school!

Vincent Mc Hale